



## National Association *for* Ethnic Studies Position Statement

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#### NAES NATIONAL OFFICE

Shabana Shaheen, Executive Director  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
P.O. Box 842542  
Richmond, VA 23284

Office Phone: (804) 828-8051  
Email: [NAES@ethnicstudies.org](mailto:NAES@ethnicstudies.org)

<http://www.ethnicstudies.org/>

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This week, the Texas State Board of Education voted 8-7 to exclude topic expert Texas-based professors from the review process of textbooks prior to Board adoption and approval for use in secondary classrooms throughout the state. This decision comes after the Texas State Board of Education faced significant criticism for approving books that indicated slavery was a “side issue” to the Civil War and, more recently, a McGraw-Hill textbook referring to African slaves as “immigrant workers.”

Presently, the Board relies on publishers and the public to flag errors. Citizen panels nominated by the Board determine whether a book fits into Texas’ curriculum standards. That ‘fit’ standard is subjective, not objective.

Board vice chairman Thomas Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, wisely proposed that the board set up a new panel drawn “solely from Texas institutions of higher education” to check the books for errors. Sadly, this did not happen. Those who are most qualified to fact-check and assess the arguments made in students’ learning tools have been excluded from the process.

Without access to factually accurate and socially responsible textbooks (especially with regards to race, ethnicity, and other forms of difference), the state of education for the next generation is quite bleak. We believe such a dismal future must not be allowed to develop. We must find a more inclusive and just path.

NAES strongly rebukes the decision of the Texas State Board of Education. We support comprehensive, inclusive education.

*The mission of the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of Ethnic Studies. In promoting social justice and equality, NAES serves as a forum for promoting Ethnic Studies research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences, and assistance to Ethnic Studies programs to develop civic minded and culturally informed communities and people.*

[ethnicstudies.org](http://ethnicstudies.org) | [naes@ethnicstudies.org](mailto:naes@ethnicstudies.org) | 804-828-8051 | @NAETHNICSTUDIES